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P- Saffir, LEONARD
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Soviet Defense Minister Says Russians Can Match Any New U.S. Weaponry

MOSCOW, Feb. 17 (Reuters)—Marshal Dmitri F. Ustinov, the Soviet Defense Minister, said today that attempts by the United States to achieve military superiority were pointless because Moscow could match any new weapons.

Writing in the magazine Kommunist, he said American militarists "have not yet given up hope of achieving military superiority by creating ever newer weapons of mass destruction."

Those circles should remember that "our country's economy, science and technology are now at such a high level that we are capable, within the shortest period, of matching any type of weapon that the enemies of peace create," he said.

The article, summarized in advance of publication by the press agency Tass, appeared to be a rebuff to Western charges that the Soviet Union was itself seeking military superiority.

"Contrary to groundless allegations that the Soviet Union and other countries of the Warsaw Treaty Organization are almost annually building up their armed forces and increasing their numerical strength, the actual state of affairs is quite different," he said. "For several years neither the Soviet Union nor other Warsaw Treaty member states have increased their armed forces. Their numerical strength remains unchanged."

But the North Atlantic alliance has been building up its forces, the marshal said, compelling the Soviet Union to maintain its military strength at an adequate level. "The Soviet Union spends for military purposes as much as is necessary to insure a reliable defense," he added.

EX-AIDE TO BUCKLEY PLANS NEW MORNING NEWSPAPER

A new morning daily newspaper for the metropolitan area is being planned by a former aide to former United States Senator James L. Buckley and a former editor of Newsweek and The New York Herald Tribune.

According to Leonard Saffir, who was Mr. Buckley's chief assistant in his bid to regain his Senate seat last fall, the new paper will be a tabloid called The Trib. Mr. Saffir said that he hoped the newspaper would be out by October.

He declined to talk about the financial backing for the new paper except to say that he had commitments from 10 investors, some of whom he said were friends of Senator Buckley's. Mr. Saffir said that the paper would probably be printed out of the city and that by contracting out the printing, there would be no need to buy presses or other printing equipment, traditionally one of the major costs of starting a newspaper.

Mr. Saffir will be the editor and publisher of the new paper, which will be published Monday through Friday. John Denson, formerly executive editor of The New York Journal-American as well as editor of Newsweek and The Herald Tribune, will be executive editor.

Mr. Saffir said that The Trib would have an initial circulation of between 200,000 and 300,000. He said that its editorial stance would be "independent."